

Application No. 10/644,275
Amendment Dated 8/18/04
Reply to Office Action of 5/18/04

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A braking apparatus for a fishing reel comprising:
2 a braking assembly having a base and a selector;
3 a contacting structure surrounding said braking assembly; [[and]]
4 a plurality of braking elements slidably located within said base of said braking
5 assembly, said braking elements slidably movable from a retracted position to
6 an extended position, wherein said braking elements make braking contact
7 with said contacting structure in said extended position; [[and]]
8 said [[a]] selector adapted to restrict selected braking elements from contacting said
9 contacting structure; and
10 wherein said contacting structure is axially stationary with respect to said braking
11 assembly.

1 2. (Original) The braking apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
2 said braking elements are extended to contact said contacting structure by centrifugal
3 force.

1 3. (Original) The braking apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
2 each of said braking elements have a post extending from a surface of said braking

3 elements, said post for limiting travel of said braking elements from said retracted position to
4 said extended position.

4. Canceled

1 5. (Original) The braking apparatus of claim 3 wherein:

2 said braking assembly is comprised of said selector and a brake assembly base;

3 said selector has a rearward face, said rearward face defining a plurality of
4 indentations;

5 said brake assembly base has a forward face, said forward face defining a plurality of
6 radial slots;

7 said rearward face of said selector mates against said forward face of said brake
8 assembly base;

9 said braking elements are slidably located within said radial slots of said brake
10 assembly base; and

11 said post of said braking elements protrude into said indentations of said forward face.

1 6. (Original) The braking apparatus of claim 5 wherein:

2 said indentations have an inner wall and an outer wall for restraining radial movement
3 of said post of said braking elements, thereby establishing a location of said retracted position
4 and said extended position of said braking elements.

- 1 7. (Original) The braking apparatus of claim 6 wherein:
2 said outer wall of said indentations have a small radius segment and a large radius
3 segment.
- 1 8. (Original) The braking apparatus of claim 7 wherein:
2 said indentations and each post of said braking elements may be moved relative to
3 one another such that each post may be selectively exposed to said small radius segment and
4 said large radius segment for selectively restraining said braking elements.
- 1 9. (Original) The braking apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
2 said braking assembly is comprised of said selector and a brake assembly base; and
3 said selector is rotationally affixed to said brake assembly base.
- 1 10. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 1 wherein:
2 said braking assembly may be configured to selectively restrain a desired number of
3 braking elements to prevent said desired number of braking elements from contacting said
4 contacting structure.
- 1 11. (Currently Amended) A method for braking a reel on a fishing reel comprising the
2 steps of:
3 setting a selector to restrict a desired number braking elements from radial movement

4 within a base of a braking assembly;
5 spinning said braking assembly;
6 providing a contacting structure surrounding said braking assembly;
7 extending a selected number of braking elements from said base of said braking
8 assembly with centrifugal force to make braking contact with said contacting
9 structure.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein:
2 limiting travel of a selected one of said braking elements by selectively engaging a
3 portion of said braking element.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11 wherein:
2 said step of limiting travel of a selected one of said braking elements comprises
3 locating a brake element post within one of a plurality of indentations ~~an indentation~~ formed
4 in said braking assembly.

1 14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11 wherein:
2 said step of setting a selector moves indentations relative to posts extending from said
3 braking elements such that said posts are selectively located on a radial path that intersects
4 one of a small radius segment and a large radius segment that comprise walls of said plurality
5 of indentations.

- 1 15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14 wherein:
2 said step of setting a selector comprises locating said small radius segment and said
3 large radius segment by imparting relative rotational motion between said posts and said
4 plurality of indentations for selectively restraining said braking elements.
- 1 16. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:
2 maintaining said contacting structure in an axially stationary relationship with respect
3 to said braking assembly during use.
- 1 17. (Original) The method according to claim 11 wherein:
2 said step of setting a selector comprises rotating said selector with respect to a brake
3 assembly base.
- 1 18. (New) A braking apparatus for a fishing reel comprising:
2 a braking assembly having a base and a selector;
3 a contacting structure surrounding said braking assembly; and
4 a plurality of braking elements slidably located within said base of said braking
5 assembly, said braking elements slidably movable from a retracted position to
6 an extended position, wherein said braking elements make braking contact
7 with said contacting structure in said extended position;

8 wherein each of said braking elements have a post extending from a surface of said
9 braking elements, said post for limiting travel of said braking elements from
10 said retracted position to said extended position;
11 a selector having a rearward face, said rearward face defining a plurality of
12 indentations, said selector adapted to restrict selected braking elements from
13 contacting said contacting structure;
14 wherein each of said plurality of indentations are adapted to receive said post.

1 19. (New) A braking apparatus for a fishing reel comprising:
2 a braking assembly having a base and a selector;
3 a contacting structure surrounding said braking assembly;
4 a plurality of braking elements slidably located within said base of said braking
5 assembly, said braking elements slidably movable from a retracted position to
6 an extended position, wherein said braking elements make braking contact
7 with said contacting structure in said extended position;
8 said selector adapted to restrict selected braking elements from contacting said
9 contacting structure; and
10 wherein said plurality of braking elements are located an equal distance from said
11 selector.